IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA NORTHERN DIVISION

VINNIE NORMAN,)
Plaintiff,))
v.) CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2:06-cv-553
FAMILY DOLLAR STORES,.)) }
Defendant.)

REPORT OF THE PARTIES' PLANNING MEETING

Pursuant to Rule 26(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Family Dollar Stores, Inc. ("Family Dollar) attempted to hold the planning meeting with plaintiff's counsel. Plaintiff's counsel, however, refused to hold the Rule 26(f) conference based on his intention to file a motion to remand. (See Plaintiff Counsel's correspondence, attached as Exhibit "A"). Therefore, in an attempt to comply with this Court's order, William J. Long, counsel for Family Dollar, unilaterally submits the following report.

- 1. **Pre-Discovery Disclosures.** The parties will exchange by September 15, 2006 the information required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a).
- 2. **Discovery Plan.** The parties jointly propose to the Court the following discovery plan:
 - (a) Discovery will be needed on the following issues.
 - (i) Plaintiff's claims and Defendants' defenses.
 - (b) All discovery shall be commenced in time to be completed by February 2, 2007.

- A maximum of twenty-five (25) interrogatories by each party to any other party. (c) (Responses due 30 days after service).
- (d) A maximum of twenty-five (25) requests for admission by each party to any other party. (Responses due 30 days after service).
- A maximum of ten (10) depositions by the plaintiff and ten (10) by each of the (e) defendants (not to include expert witness depositions), excluding depositions upon written questions.
- (f) Each deposition limited to maximum of seven (7) hours unless extended by agreement of parties.
- (g) Reports from retained experts under Rule 26(a)(2) shall be due:
 - from the plaintiff by October 17, 2006, with said experts to be made (i) available for deposition by November 17, 2006;
 - (ii) from the defendants by December 8, 2006, with said experts to be made available for deposition by January 12, 2007.
- (h) Supplementations under Rule 26(e) shall be due on January 19, 2007.

3. Other Items.

- The parties do not request a conference with the court before entry of the (a) scheduling order.
- (b) The parties request a pre-trial conference March 23, 2007.
- (c) Plaintiff should be allowed until September 29, 2006 to join additional parties and amend the pleadings.
- Defendants should be allowed until October 27, 2006 to join additional parties (d) and amend the pleadings.
- (e) All potentially dispositive motions should be filed by March 16, 2007.
- (f) Settlement of the case is possible but cannot be evaluated prior to the completion of discovery. At such time, if any of the parties believe the use of alternative dispute resolution procedures may be beneficial in resolving this case, the parties, individually or jointly, will so advise the court.
- Witness and Exhibit lists under Rule 26(a)(3) shall be due 30 days prior to trial. (g) The parties will have 15 days after receipt of Witness and Exhibit Lists to list objections under Rule 26(a)(3).

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(h) The case should be ready for trial by May 7, 2007 and should take approximately three (3) days to try.

Dated this 16th day of August, 2006.

Christopher B. Pitts P.C. 4142 Carmichael Road, Suite A Montgomery, AL 36106

Attorney for Plaintiff Vinnie Norman

s/William J. Long

Burr & Forman LLP 3100 Wachovia Tower 420 North Twentieth Street Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Attorney for Family Dollar Stores, Inc.

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www.thepittsfirm.com



Burr & Forman, LLP Attn: William J. Long 3100 Wachovia Tower 420 North 20th Street Birmingham, AL 35203

Re: Vinnie Norman v. Family Dollar Stores, Inc.

Dear Mr. Long:

I am sorry we have been unable to speak. However, I have no record of your calls. I am writing to inform you that I have amended my original complaint to include additional defendants, which may negate the need for this matter to be tried in Federal Court. Should you desire a hearing on the matter in state court, in regards to my amendment and your removal of the matter to federal court, I will not object and will petition the court jointly for a "fast-track" hearing on the matter, prior to our federal court Rule 26 deadline of August 18, 2006.

Should you wish to conference with me on the matter I may be reached at one of the numbers listed below, or via email at cpitts@thepittsfirm.com.

Sincerely,

The Pitts Firm

Zhristopater B. Pitts_

4142 Carmichael Road Suite A Montgomery, AL 36106

334-356-9995, Main 334-356-2899, Facsimile 111 19th Street North Suite Meiz Birmingham, Al. 35203 205-297-0999, Main 205-297-0991, Facsimile 200 Clinton Avenue Suite 507 Huntsville, AL 35801 256-539-6199, Main 256-539-6299, Facsimile